

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01079 161547Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
SSM-03 IO-13 /078 W
-----161552Z 064969 /43

P R 161150Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1794
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

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JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PLO, SY
SUBJECT: ARAFAT DIRECTS APPEAL TO ASAD

1. FEB 15 SYRIAN PRESS FRONT-PAGED TELEGRAM ARAFAT SENT
PRES ASAD FROM CAIRO IN WHICH ARAFAT DECLARED HE HAD CANCELLED
A PLANNED TRIP TO AFRICA BECAUSE "THINGS STARTED TO BECOME
COMPLICATED IN LEBANON." ARAFAT THEN EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
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THAT PRES ASAD WOULD HANDLE THE SITUATION USING "HIS GREAT
PATIENCE AND WISDOM." ARAFAT REQUESTED ASAD TO PUT AN END TO
THE CRISIS AND APPEALED TO HIM TO POSTPONE ANY DECISION REGARDING
A MILITARY OPERATION BY THE ADF...IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD OUR
FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN THEIR CAMPS AND IN ORDER TO PRESERVE
OUR JOINT MARCH." MESSAGE WAS SIGNED "YOUR BROTHER YASSER
ARAFAT."

2. PLO OFFICIAL ABU MAYZAR HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAMASCUS
1330L FEB 15 IN WHICH HE STATED ARAFAT HAD TRIED TO MEET
WITH ASAD EVENING OF FEB 14 BUT BECAUSE OF ASAD'S TRIP TO
ROMANIA MEETING DID NOT TAKE PLACE. HE DID MEET NOON FEB 15
WITH PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI AND THEN RETURNED TO BEIRUT TO "SUPER-
VISE EASING OF TENSIONS." ABU MAYZAR SAID KHULAYFAWI SHOWED
"UNDERSTANDING AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE."

3. COMMENT: INTERMITTENT FIGHTING WHICH BROKE OUT LAST
WEEK BETWEEN REJECTIONIST GROUPS ON ONE HAND AND PRO-SYRIAN AND
ADF FORCES ON THE OTHER IN SUBURBAN BEIRUT PALESTINIAN CAMPS WAS
PROBABLY NOT SOLE REASON FOR THIS MESSAGE. RECENT REPORTS
THAT QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE HAS REINTERPRETED 1969 CAIRO
ACCORDS IN MANNER VERY UNFAVORABLE TO PLO FORCES IN LEBANON
ARE ALSO GIVEN CREDENCE BY ARAFAT'S DRAMATIC APPEAL AND APPEAR-
ANCE IN DAMASCUS. FACT THAT SYRIAN PRESS CHOSE TO PUBLICIZE
THIS APPEAL MAY INDICATE THAT SYRIANS WILL BE CONTENT FOR TIME
BEING TO USE "SALAMI" TACTICS RATHER THAN ALL OUT ASSAULT TO BRING
ABOUT COMPLIANCE. OVERALL IMPRESSION GIVEN BY PRESS IS
ARAFAT COMING AS SUPPLICANT TO BEG MERCY FROM ASAD.

MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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